



The Midnight Mechanics in St. Louis for the FIRST Championship

Robotics Team Wraps a Banner Year

It was quite a year for The Preuss School UCSD's Midnight Mechanics. The robotics team was recognized at the Central Valley Regional with the prestigious Chairman's Award—given to the team that best represents a model for others to emulate—which earned the team a chance to compete at the FIRST Championship in St. Louis. Thanks to generous individuals and corporate sponsors, including General Motors, Leidos, TE Connectivity, Qualcomm, Brain Corporation and ViaSat, the team was able to raise enough money to take 27 students to the competition.

Although the team did not advance to the elimination rounds, the students gained valuable experience from the competition. "A trip like this was a real eye-opener for our students," said Dan Rupert, The Preuss School robotics coach. "Special thanks to everyone who helped give the kids this rare opportunity."

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The Preuss School Graduates Look to a Bright Future

"How far are you going to go?" It was the question posed to The Preuss School UCSD Class of 2016 by this year's special commencement speaker, Leonard Comma, chairman of the board and CEO of Jack in the Box Inc. Judging by the accomplishments of the 132 seniors Comma was addressing, the answer is *far, really far*.

This year's class boasted four Gates Millennium Scholars: recipients of prestigious scholarships that cover all college costs for undergraduate and graduate education. In the past 13 years, The Preuss School has had 39 Gates Millennium Scholars.

"Considering only 1,000 of these scholarships are awarded each year, this is no small feat," said Principal Scott Barton. "We are extremely proud of our Gates Millennium Scholars and all our graduates. Their success is a testament to their determination and many hours of hard work."

Indeed, it is. Of the graduates, 111 have been accepted to a four-year college or university. A few are heading off to private universities such as Syracuse University, the University of Southern California and Pitzer College. The majority will attend public universities, with 59 planning to attend a University of California campus, including 27 students who will attend UC San Diego on a full ride as Chancellor's Associates Scholars. Another 34 are headed to a California State University campus. Thirty students will attend community colleges with plans to transfer to a four-year university.

This year's graduating class also garnered more than \$2.2 million in award money. In addition to the Gates Millennium Scholarships and Chancellor's Associates Scholarships, students received the Preuss Alumni Legacy Scholarship and Grillo-Marxuch Scholarship, as well as scholarships from the Carrera-Joffe Foundation, Kiwanis of La Jolla, and the Patricia and Christopher Weil Family Foundation, to name just a few.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!



BULLETIN BOARD

- Thanks to everyone who participated in **The Preuss Promise: Changing the Game** annual benefit celebration. With your help, we raised more than \$410,000. Special thanks to our event and honorary committee members, as well as our sponsors.
- Summer is here, but school will be back in session before you know it. Save the date for our annual **First Day Welcome, Monday, Aug. 15**, and help us welcome new and returning students to The Preuss School.
- Congratulations to Principal Scott Barton and Krista Bartlett, chair of the Learning Resources Department! Barton was named one of the **30 Most Influential California High School Principals** by Mometrix Test Preparation, and Bartlett was recognized as **Educator of the Year** by the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Astrid Solorzano '07

Solorzano received her undergraduate degree in global studies from UC Santa Barbara and her master's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. She worked as a reporter for the CBS affiliate in Little Rock, Ark., and is now a reporter with 10News at the ABC affiliate in San Diego. "My education at Preuss helped me build a foundation of confidence that is irreplaceable," she said.



Astrid Solorzano

Jesse Lopez '04

A member of The Preuss School's first graduating class, Lopez has been recognized as a 2015 Young Hispanic Corporate Achiever by the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility and named a 2016 Wunderkind by *Westchester* magazine, which recognizes under-30, forward-thinking professionals. He currently leads the Strategic Business Intelligence team at Heineken USA. Prior to joining Heineken, he worked in corporate strategy and marketing at PepsiCo, Frito-Lay and Mondelez International, and in management consulting at Monitor Group.



Jesse Lopez



Kerri Mowen had an insatiable curiosity and lived life to the fullest.

New Scholarship Honors Memory of Devoted Scientist, Mentor

Her love of science was infectious. As a student, Kerri Mowen, Ph.D., excelled not because she wanted to earn a perfect score, but because she had a hunger to learn. As a professional developing drugs to treat autoimmune diseases, she was committed to sharing her passion by mentoring the next generation of young scientists.

"Kerri was a very involved and caring mentor," said Laura Rivard, a close friend of Mowen. "She often hosted young visitors in her lab who were treated to hands-on experiences. She even organized special events like the Mowen Lab Hunger Games."

To honor her memory and support students with an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), a new scholarship has been established at The Preuss School UCSD. Mowen's family and friends raised funds to create an endowed award that will provide one \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating senior from The Preuss School each spring in perpetuity. This year, UC San Diego-bound senior Kelly Dang received the inaugural award.

Mowen studied biology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, before attending graduate school at UC San Diego and completing postdoctoral studies at Harvard University. She worked at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla before co-founding Padlock Therapeutics to translate discoveries into treatments.



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PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Graduation is always a bitter-sweet moment: the celebration of an ending and a beginning, a time when we look back with pride on all that our students have accomplished

and look ahead with anticipation of the achievements yet to come.

It is also a time when we recognize some of the people who help our students succeed. The Spirit of Preuss Community Award is given annually to those who embody the “spirit of Preuss”—people with strong character and values who are dedicated to the school and serve as role models to others. This year, we

are pleased to recognize a local fundraising organization as one of our awardees. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated more than \$17 million to more than 1,000 charitable institutions in San Diego, including The Preuss School UCSD. With its support, we were able to purchase a 10-passenger van for students to attend athletic matches, arts events and other community activities.

We are also happy to recognize three individuals this year:

- Brian Luscomb, a longtime champion of the school and a key liaison between The Preuss School and Jack in the Box, where he works as deputy vice president of corporate communications.
- Felix Campos, our grounds supervisor here at The Preuss School who has worked many long hours to keep our

campus beautiful and our students and staff safe.

- Russell King, a UC San Diego employee who is always looking for ways to support The Preuss School, whether it's speaking to classes, offering internships, hosting lunches and much more.

Thank you to all our Spirit of Preuss award winners and to everyone else who is helping to make a difference in the lives of our students. Together, we are ensuring a bright future for all.

Best regards,

Scott Barton
Principal

SPOTLIGHT *Monika Langarica '07, Nonprofit Immigration Lawyer*

Monika Langarica's parents always believed she was special. As she grew up in southeast San Diego, however, the pathway to success was not drawn out for her. It wasn't until she was accepted to The Preuss School UCSD, with the help of her fifth-grade teacher, that opportunity coincided with ability.

“I was not born into magical circumstances that facilitated my matriculation,” Langarica said. “People like me require communities to make it. Preuss was a part of the village that gave me access to just outcomes.”

She is a self-proclaimed workaholic, yet Langarica credits her success to her family, teachers and community. She acknowledges the sacrifices of her parents, who immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico and worked multiple jobs to make ends meet. She also recognizes the support of her teachers at The Preuss School, who helped her

pass eight Advanced Placement exams, land her first job, apply for college and discover advocacy.

“My mom woke up before sunrise to take me to the bus stop so I would make it to school before she started her 12-hour workdays,” Langarica said.

After graduating from The Preuss School in 2007, Langarica went on to the University of Southern California, where she was a Gates Millennium Scholar and graduated cum laude.

She went on to earn a law degree at UC Berkeley and now serves as a nonprofit immigration lawyer.

“I have over 100 highly needy clients who, without my work, would not have access



Monika Langarica (second from right) with Peter and Peggy Preuss (left) and Principal Scott Barton at The Preuss Promise annual benefit.

to legal services,” Langarica said. “I am investing in creating a more just world for the population I serve, just like those in my life mitigated the barriers that were made to limit my outcomes.”

Preussline is published by **The Preuss School UCSD**
9500 Gilman Dr. # 0536, La Jolla, CA 92093-0536 | preuss.ucsd.edu

1617-044

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Edited by Laura Margoni, University Communications and Public Affairs

Designed and produced by UC San Diego Creative Services and Publications
www.ucpa.ucsd.edu



FOCUS ON Inspiring Aspiring Engineers



The Preuss School students visit Qualcomm to learn firsthand what it's like to be an engineer.

What does an engineer's laboratory look like? How can I achieve a career in this field? The Preuss School UCSD students enrolled in pre-engineering and robotics classes recently had the chance to visit Qualcomm Inc. and hear from experts firsthand about what the profession entails.

The new partnership was initiated by Qualcomm Vice President of Engineering Charles Bergan, a UC San Diego alumnus (B.S. '87, M.S. '88) and member of the UC San Diego Alumni Board of Directors. The goal of the program is

to promote interest in the field as well as assure students that engineering is a viable career path for them.

"It is inspiring to watch Preuss create a bridge between a student's uncertain past and their bright, college-bound future," Bergan said. "Qualcomm is proud to play a part in helping Preuss' students explore their passion for engineering."

Throughout the year, current and retired Qualcomm employees also connect with robotics team students as they build their devices for competition.